WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus for receiving data from a host device and forming an image, comprising:

a storage unit for storing a set value;

5   a transmitting unit for transmitting the set value, which has been stored in said storage unit, in response to a request from the host device; and

an updating unit for updating the set value, which has been stored in said storage unit, based upon

10   print data received from the host device.

2. An image forming apparatus for receiving data from a host device and forming an image, comprising:

a storage unit for storing a set value; and

a notifying unit for deciding a set value of the

15   image forming apparatus in response to an image formation request from the host device, comparing the set value decided and the set value that has been stored in said storage unit, processing the image formation request if the two set values agree and, if

20   the two set values do not agree, notifying the host device of this fact.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the set value that has been stored in said storage unit includes size or type or both size and type of a

25   sheet-like medium on which an image is formed.

4.   The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an image forming unit for forming an image by an ink-jet method;

    wherein the set value that has been stored in

5   said storage unit includes a setting of distance between an ink-jet printhead and a sheet.

5.   The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

    a panel for displaying messages and specifying

10   inputs;

    a determination unit for determining whether data received from the host device includes a confirmation command; and

    a confirmation unit for displaying a message on

15   said panel and prompting an input in response to this message if said determination unit has determined that the data includes a confirmation command;

    wherein an image is formed based upon the data if an input in response to the message is made by said

20   confirmation unit.

6.   An information processing apparatus for forming an image by an image forming unit, comprising:

    an acquisition unit for acquiring a set value from the image forming unit; and

25   a comparison unit for comparing a specified set value in image formation and the set value that has been acquired by said acquisition unit, transmitting

an image formation request to the image forming unit if the two set values agree and, if the two set values do not agree, displaying this fact by a display.

7. An image forming system in which an image forming apparatus and an information processing apparatus are connected, wherein said image forming apparatus comprises:

a storage unit for storing a set value of said image forming apparatus;

a transmitting unit for transmitting the set value, which has been stored in said storage unit, in response to a request from said information processing apparatus; and

an updating unit for updating the set value, which has been stored in said storage unit, based upon print data received from said information processing apparatus; and

said information processing apparatus comprises:

an acquisition unit for acquiring a set value from said image forming apparatus; and

a comparison unit for comparing a specified set value in image formation and the set value that has been acquired by said acquisition unit, transmitting an image formation request to said image forming apparatus if the two set values agree and, if the two set values do not agree, displaying this fact by a display.

8. An image forming system comprising the image
forming apparatus set forth in claim 2, and an
information processing apparatus, which is connected
to said image forming apparatus, for receiving

5 notification from said image forming apparatus and
displaying it on a display.

9. An image forming system in which a latest set
value that has been stored in a printer is acquired
and, if the set value differs from a set value that

10 has been specified, this fact is reported.

10. A method of controlling an image forming
apparatus that receives data from a host device and
forms an image, said method comprising:

a storage step of storing a set value of the

15 apparatus in a storage unit;

a transmitting step of transmitting the set value,
which has been stored in said storage unit, in
response to a request from the host device; and

an updating step of updating the set value, which

20 has been stored in said storage unit, based upon print
data received from the host device.

11. A method of controlling an image forming
apparatus that receives data from a host device and
forms an image, said method comprising:

25 a storage step of storing a set value of the
apparatus in a storage unit; and

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a notifying step of deciding a set value of the
image forming apparatus in response to an image
formation request from the host device, comparing the
set value decided and the set value that has been
5   stored in said storage unit, processing the image
formation request if the two set values agree and, if
the two set values do not agree, notifying the host
device of this fact.

12.   The method according to claim 10, further
10 comprising:

a determination step of determining whether data
received from the host device includes a confirmation
command; and

a confirmation step of displaying a message on a
15 panel, which is for displaying messages and specifying
inputs, and prompting an input in response to the
message if it is determined at said determination step
that the data includes a confirmation command;

wherein an image is formed based upon the data if
20 an input in response to the message is made at said
confirmation step.

13.   An information processing method for forming an
image by an image forming unit, comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring a set value from
25 the image forming unit; and

a comparison step of comparing a specified set
value in image formation and the set value that has

been acquired at said acquisition step, transmitting

an image formation request to the image forming unit

if the two set values agree and, if the two set values

do not agree, displaying this fact by display means.

5   14.   A method of controlling a printer in which a

latest set value that has been stored in a printer is

acquired and, if the set value differs from a set

value that has been specified, this fact is reported.

15.   A computer program product storing a program for

10   controlling an image forming apparatus that forms an

image, said program comprising:

code of a storage step of storing a set value of

the apparatus in storage means;

code of a transmitting step of transmitting the

15   set value, which has been stored in said storage means,

in response to a request from a host device; and

code of an updating step of updating the set

value, which has been stored in said storage means,

based upon print data received from the host device.

20   16.   A computer program product storing a program for

controlling an image forming apparatus that forms an

image, said program comprising:

code of a storage step of storing a set value of

the apparatus in storage means; and

25   code of a step of deciding a set value of the

image forming apparatus in response to an image

formation request from a host device, comparing the

set value decided and the set value that has been

stored in said storage means, processing the image

formation request if the two set values agree and, if

the two set values do not agree, notifying the host

5   device of this fact.

17.   A printing system for transmitting print settings,

which have been set by a printer driver, to a printer,

said printer performing printing in accordance with

these settings, wherein:

10   said printer driver includes an acquisition unit

for acquiring print settings that have been stored by

the printer; and

      said printer includes:

      a storage unit for storing print settings

15   according to which printing was performed last; and

      a transmitting unit for transmitting stored print

settings to said printer driver in response to a

request from said printer driver.

18. An input/output system comprising a host computer

20   and an input/output device connected to said host

computer by an interface that is capable of

bidirectional communication, wherein:

      said input/output unit includes:

      a paper-thickness adjusting unit for dealing with

25   thickness of paper;

a calculating unit for calculating an appropriate paper-thickness adjustment position from information that has been transmitted from said host computer; and

a storage unit for storing the paper-thickness
5 adjustment position that has been calculated; and

said host computer includes:

a receiving unit for receiving information indicating paper-thickness adjustment position from said input/output unit; and

10 a determination unit for determining whether the information indicating paper-thickness adjustment position is appropriate for an input/output operation sought by an operator.

19. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
15 set value is stored in said storage unit together with an identifier for identifying a user.

20. The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the identifier is one assigned to a control program in the host device.

20 21. A printing system comprising:

a printer capable of utilizing a plurality of types of printing media, said printer including:

a storage unit for storing a type of printing medium on which printing has been performed;
25 and

means for responding to an inquiry from a
host with the type of printing medium that has been
stored in said storage unit; and

a host device including:

5   an acquisition unit for inquiring about and
acquiring, from said printer, a type of printing
medium that was printed on last; and

a display unit for displaying a confirmation
message to a user if the type of printing medium
10   acquired by said acquisition unit and a type of
printing medium set by the user do not agree.

22.   The system according to claim 21, wherein said
host device sends said printer a confirmation command,
which is for placing said printer in a standby state,
15   if the type of printing medium acquired by said
acquisition unit and the type of printing medium set
by the user do not agree;

said printer further includes a confirmation
input unit;   and

20   if said printer has been placed in the standby
state by the confirmation command, printing by said
printer is resumed in a case where confirmation has
been input by said confirmation input unit.

23.   The system according to claim 22, wherein said
25   host device allows the user to select whether or not
to place said printer in the standby state if the type
of printing medium acquired by said acquisition unit

and the type of printing medium set by the user do not
agree.

24.   A printing system in which type of medium on
which printing was performed last is acquired from a
5   printer and, if formation of an image on a medium of a
type different from the type of the first-mentioned
medium has been specified, reporting this fact to a
user.

25.   A computer program product storing a computer
10   program, said program comprising:

code for acquiring a type of medium on which
printing was performed last, the type of medium having
been stored in a memory of a printer; and

code for comparing the type of medium on which
15   printing was performed last and a type of medium, for
which image formation has been specified, stored in a
memory of a computer, and if the two types of media do
not agree, outputting notification of this fact to a
user.

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